

The Revelation of Righteousness

Message Handout

Romans 1:16–17 (ESV) — 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it **the righteousness of God is revealed** from faith for faith, as it is written, “**The righteous shall live by faith.**”

Romans 1:18–32 (NLT) — 18 But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. 19 They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. 20 For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. 21 Yes, they knew God, but **they wouldn’t worship him** as God or **even give him thanks**. And they began **to think up foolish ideas** of what God was like. As a result, their **minds became dark and confused**. 22 Claiming to be wise, they instead **became utter fools**. 23 And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 So **God abandoned them** to do whatever **shameful things** their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other’s bodies. 25 They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. 26 That is why **God abandoned them** to their **shameful desires**. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. 27 And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. **Men did shameful things** with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved. 28 Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, **he abandoned them to their foolish thinking** and let them do things that should never be done. 29 Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. 30 They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. 31 They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. 32 They know God’s justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.

The revelation of wrath

What happened to humans: Our Ancestors

1. The Reason of Wrath

1. Truth is suppressed - “who suppress the truth by their wickedness.”
2. Ignore Him - “They knew Him, BUT they wouldn’t worship Him as God
3. Refusal of gratitude - “Wouldn’t even give Him thanks”
4. Not worshiping Him - “Wouldn’t worship him as God”

5. PRIDE - "Claiming to be wise"

1. 1882 Friedrich Nietzsche said: "God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him. How shall we comfort ourselves, the murderers of all murderers? What was holiest and mightiest of all that the world has yet owned has bled to death under our knives: who will wipe this blood off us?"

2. **The Way of Wrath**

1. Abandoned by God - GOD GAVE THEM OVER
2. Given to foolish ideas - THEY BECAME FOOLS
3. Given to shameful desires - GAVE THEM OVER TO SHAMEFUL DESIRES
4. Given to unrighteous actions - MEN DID SHAMEFUL THINGS

3. **The End of Wrath**

1. Life consumed by wickedness.
2. Our wickedness hurts others.
3. We are blinded and prideful about our condition.

So what's the hope:

Romans 1:16–17 (NLT) — **16** For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. **17** This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."